

Extreme Chunkin 5K Launched in Memory of Don Gross

Speedway event benefits Police Athletic League

Charlie Darling, Beacon staff

When Extreme Chunkin returns to the New Hampshire Motor Speedway on October 15 and 16 this year, it will feature more than just huge pumpkin-chuckin' machines. In memory of Don Gross of Andover, one of the event's founders, the weekend will start with a 5K run to benefit the Nashua Police Athletic League. PAL was a very special charity to Don, who was police chief of Nashua for many years.

The Extreme Chunkin 5K is open to all ages. The \$30 registration fee includes a ticket to the day's Extreme Chunkin activities plus a bright green Extreme Chunkin 5K event t-shirt.

The race starts at 8 AM on Saturday, October 15; the course is entirely within the speedway grounds.

Online registration is available at Run-Reg.com/Extreme-Chuckin-5K (note the misspelling of "Chunkin"!); or visit ExtremeChunkin.com for more information.

More About Extreme Chunkin

Back at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon again this year,

the second annual Extreme Chunkin event draws pumpkin-chuckin' teams from all across the country to compete in an all-out battle for greatness. Machines like trebuchets, catapults, and air cannons will launch pumpkins and

FOR MORE INFO VISIT extremechunkin.com or CALL 603-523-5793

other extreme items.

To add to the fun, there will be harvest festival activities throughout the weekend, including rides, pumpkin carving, face painting, and more. Tickets to the event are \$10 each day and are available at ExtremeChunkin.com



On a sunny Sunday afternoon in July, an unidentified Bradley Lake kayaker demonstrates a new way to simultaneously harness wind power and avoid sunburn. Photo: Larry Chase

Free Photo Shoot to Focus on Historic Muster Field Farm

Capture New Hampshire's autumn foliage

Press release

An early-morning excursion to the Muster Field Farm Museum in Sutton on Saturday, October 1, will offer local photographers, from beginners to devotees, an opportunity to capture New Hampshire's autumn foliage in an historic and picturesque setting.

Free, open to the public, and guided by experienced photographers Steve Colardeau and Jay Fitzpatrick of Andover, the photo shoot will get under way at 6:30 AM on the Muster Field Farm Museum grounds. Participants can rendezvous there, rain or shine, at any time between then and 8 AM or join in car-pooling from Andover's Town Hall parking lot at 6 AM (returning to the Town Hall at 9:30 AM).

Though advance registration is not required, potential attendees are requested to contact Fitzpatrick in advance at jalf@tds.net so the session leaders can provide additional support as needed.

On their own or with support from Colardeau and Fitzpatrick, participants will be able to roam the museum's 250 acres of fields and woods. Also available to photograph are a collection of historic buildings ranging from huge barns to small corn cribs and including a one-room schoolhouse and a blacksmith shop, both saved from destruction elsewhere and moved to the property. All are open for interior as well as exterior photography. The exterior of the historic Matthew Harvey Homestead, a handsome 18th-century farmhouse listed on the National Register of Historic Places, may also be photographed.

Fitzpatrick notes, "Autumn at the Muster Field Farm is New England at its finest, and early morning the best time of day for photography. This should be a great chance for photographers of all

ages and skill levels to capture with their cameras the colors and textures that will be awaiting them."

Participants are reminded to expect a chilly October morning. Colardeau's advice: "Check the weather forecast the



The barn at Muster Field Farm.

Photo: Jay Fitzpatrick

day before to get an idea of what to expect. Long pants and some form of boots will be best. A jacket will help, and maybe a pair of gloves and a hat. Metal camera equipment can get real cold.

"Because it is early, the light will be low. Shooting from a tripod is almost mandatory. Macro shooters take note: This time of day is when you may find spiders and their webs, either dew- or frost-covered. Once the sun heats things up, the webs melt. Be ready to get a little wet shooting spiders or anything close to the ground."

The event is sponsored by the Andover Institute, an arm of the Andover Community Association. It is part of a continuing series of "space explorations," designed to introduce local residents to venues more or less "off the beaten path" for many.

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